

S a n D i e g o C o u n t y

Commission

Children, Youth & Families



2004 Annual Report

Commission on Children, Youth and Families Annual Report 2004

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The Year in Review

-Honorable Susan D. Huguenor

Chair, Commission on Children, Youth and Families

I am pleased to share the accomplishments outlined in this Annual Report. Representatives from a cross-section of government, education, non-profit agencies, and community members worked together to find solutions to complex problems facing children and families in San Diego. With the leadership and support of the Board of Supervisors, recommendations from previous years to increase the availability of



affordable housing for reunifying families and emancipating youth were achieved this year.

Last year the Commission recommended integrating the Family Support Services Continuum, Kinship Support Services, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families funding and programs to develop a continuum of child welfare support services that reduce duplication of efforts and utilize available resources and revenues efficiently. Based on this recommendation, the Community Services for Families contracts were implemented to provide a continuum of prevention and intervention services in neighborhood-based sites countywide.

In 2004, the Commission provided training and education to over 1,600 people. One successful program is Diversity Schoolhouse. This monthly brown bag training series assists frontline workers within the social services and law enforcement fields in improving their communication with and understanding of various ethnic, cultural, religious, and other diverse groups in the community. Another highlight was the 3rd Annual Parenting Conference, which was attended by over 500 parents and caregivers. The Commission also hosted "Foster Youth Education: It's OUR Responsibility," a four-part training

series offered in the Spring and Fall, designed for people working with children and youth in the delinquency and dependency systems.

The focus of the Child Welfare Services Redesign Steering Committee was to examine strategies outlined in the Child Welfare Redesign Stakeholder Report and support implementation of the California Outcomes and Accountability System (AB636). As the work of the Committee progressed, it became clear that the child welfare focus needed to be broadened to include other child and family serving systems. A partnership evolved with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Children's Mental Health System of Care

Steering Committee, Domestic Violence Council, and Foster Youth Services Advisory Board to improve outcomes for children and families by sharing responsibility. To guide system change, the group identified a need for a partnership for children, families and communities. The Partnership for Children, Families and Communities Forum was organized to gather input from public and private entities on advancing the concepts of transforming partnerships and sharing responsibility to improve outcomes. The Commission will provide leadership and support to enable the Partnership to become a resource for system improvements. The success of this effort will ultimately be measured by our impacts on the health, safety, and vitality of children and youth.

Mission

Advise the Board of Supervisors on policy affecting the well-being of children, youth and families.

Vision

Through advocacy and leadership, each San Diego child will reach his/her full potential, by growing up in a family, school and community that is safe, healthy and nurturing.

2004-2005 Focus

Strive to integrate the child serving system by building strong partnerships with shared accountability to improve outcomes for children and youth.

Overview

The Commission on Children, Youth and Families (Commission) was formed by the Board of Supervisors in 1986, with a mandate to provide a leadership role in identifying and addressing the needs of children, youth and families who are either at-risk or in the public charge. The Commission is a cross-agency and cross-sector resource, as well as a public forum, for all policy, program and funding issues related to children, youth and families.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To serve as an information resource to the Board of Supervisors on issues related to children, youth and families.
- To promote coordinated and collaborative efforts of public and private sector organizations engaged in services to children.
- To facilitate a regional and integrated service delivery approach to the provision of children, youth and family services.
- To develop and make policy recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer and Board of Supervisors regarding children, youth and family issues and services.
- To provide a regional public forum for the discussion of issues relating to children, youth and families.
- To assist agencies and departments in the development of plans for services to children, youth and families.
- To respond to requests from the Board of Supervisors to review issues relating to children, youth and families.
- To assist appropriate departments in reviewing legislation relating to children, youth and family issues.
- To promote efforts such as de-categorized, blended funding initiatives, and obtaining categorical funding waivers, to increase local flexibility in funding and programming decisions related to children, youth and families.
- To promote prevention services and programs for children, youth and families.



Membership

The Commission has a membership of 43 voting individuals: 5 members at-large, 20 public officials, 9 nonprofit or non-governmental organizations, 6 regional collaborative representatives, and 3 consumers.

- **Ron Zappelli**, Supervisorial District One
- **JoAnne Bushby**, Supervisorial District Two
- **Jeanette Day**, Supervisorial District Three
- **Debra Fitzgerald**, Supervisorial District Four
- **Katherine Smith-Brooks**, Supervisorial District Five
- **Honorable Susan Huguenor**, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court (Chair)
- **Supervisor Greg Cox**, Board of Supervisors
- **Jean Shepard**, Director, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Nancy Bowen, M.D.**, Public Health Officer, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Alfredo Aguirre**, Director, Children's Mental Health Services, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Patric Ashby**, Director, Child Welfare Services, Health and Human Services Agency (Retired)
- **Vincent Iaria**, Chief Probation Officer
- **Bill Kolender**, Sheriff
- **Bonnie Dumanis**, District Attorney
- **John Sansone**, County Counsel
- **Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.**, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District
- **Rudy Castruita, Ed.D.**, County Superintendent of Schools
- **Barbara Ryan**, President, San Diego County School Boards Association
- **Catherine Trout**, Director, County of San Diego Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Debbie de los Santos**, Representative, State Agency
- **Renée Bahl**, Director, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department
- **Terrell Salmon**, Director, County of San Diego Farm and Home Advisor
- **Ana España**, Representative, Office of the Public Defender
- **George Cameron, Ed.D.**, Superintendent, National School District
- **Alan Bersin**, Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District
- **Sylvia Selverston**, Chair, San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council
- **Sandy McBrayer**, Executive Director, Children's Initiative
- **Teresa Stivers**, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation
- **Sharon Lawrence**, Executive Director, Voices for Children
- **Raymond Peterson, M.D.**, Executive Director, San Diego Regional Center
- **Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose**, President/CEO, Union of Pan Asian Communities
- **Vivian Reznik, M.D.**, Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics
- **Rev. Nancy Mitchell**, Representative, Faith Community
- **Leslie Hine-Rabichow**, Representative, San Diego Association of Nonprofits
- **Riley McRae**, Representative, Central Region Collaborative
- **Robin Wood**, Representative, East Region Collaborative
- **Vacant**, Representative, North Central Region Collaborative
- **Vacant**, Representative, North Coastal Region Collaborative
- **Vacant**, Representative, North Inland Region Collaborative
- **Jo Ann Leone**, Representative, South Region Collaborative
- **Vacant**, Consumer Representative
- **Rita Naranjo**, Consumer Representative
- **Daphne Watson**, Consumer Representative



Executive Committee

Purpose: To provide direction to Commission staff and make interim decisions on issues that require timely action.

In January 2004, Jean Shepard and the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) convened advisory boards for input on program priorities to use in formulating the Operational Plan for fiscal year 04-05. The Commission convened a special meeting to prioritize programs, in which participants concluded more information would be required to make informed budget decisions. The Executive Committee formed the Budget Task Force, which met with representatives from the HHS and Probation who provided program and funding information for program prioritization. The Task Force recommendations were finalized and approved by the Executive Committee on February 20. In May, the Executive Committee approved an Advisory Board statement on the Proposed 04-05 Operational Plan that was submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Signs of Support Program

The Executive Committee provides administrative oversight to the Signs of Support Program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 1997. This program raises money by selling advertising on selected County vehicles. In 2004, the Commission allocated FY 03-04 Signs of Support funds in the amount of \$7,002.40 to San Diego County Parks Society to administer to eligible school-aged children for sports and/or enrichment activity programs. San Diego County Parks Society distributed these funds to 101 foster and low-income youth for activities such as: football, soccer, and basketball leagues; high school sports; cheerleading; school trips; and summer, church and specialized camps.

Committee Members:

Hon. Susan Huguenor, Juvenile Court (Chair)

Vivian Reznik, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics (Vice Chair)

Nan D'Anna, San Diego Regional Center (Secretary)

JoAnne Bushby, Representative, Supervisorial District Two

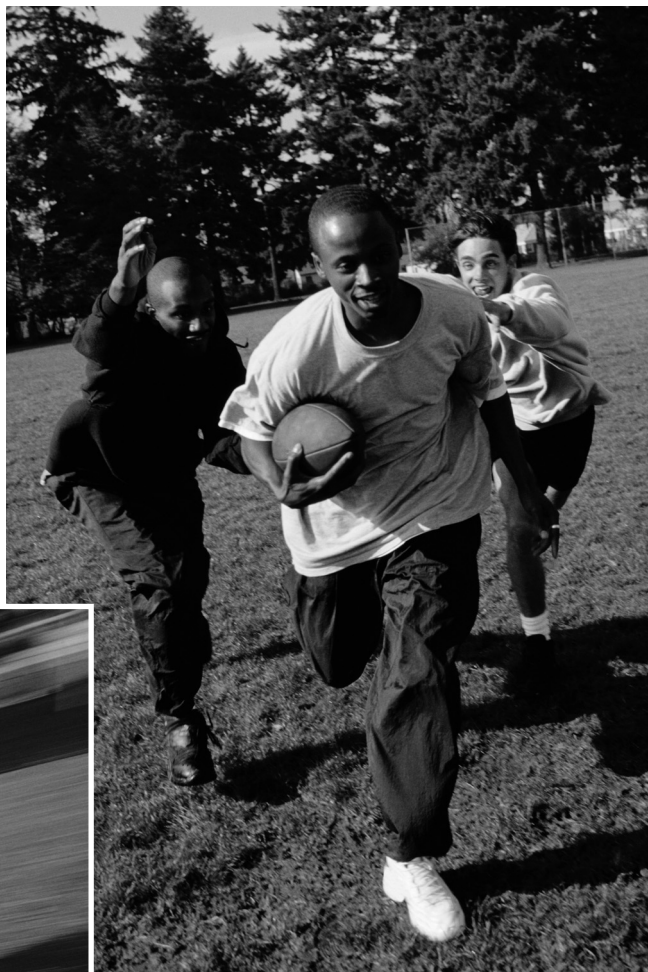
Vincent Iaria, Probation Department

Roseann Myers, Commission on Children, Youth and Families

Lynn Neault, San Diego Community College District

Barbara Ryan, San Diego County School Boards Association

Jean Shepard, Health and Human Services Agency



Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAPC)

In February 2002, the Board of Supervisors designated the Commission as the local child abuse prevention council.

CAPC has specific mandates outlined in State Welfare and Institutions Code 18982:

- To provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases.
- To promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment.
- To encourage and facilitate training of professionals in the detection, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- To recommend improvements in services to families and victims.
- To encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs.

The CAPC meets monthly to develop, support and coordinate community efforts and awareness to prevent child abuse and heal its effects. Each meeting consists of workgroup updates, a 15-minute Spotlight on a new or innovative program or service, and an hour-long training. Attendees include County staff, community providers, foster parents, school personnel, and others interested in child abuse prevention in San Diego County. An average of 28 participants attend each meeting.

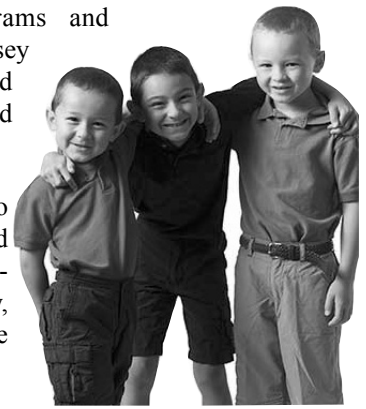
Monthly Trainings:

The committee provided the following monthly trainings:

- Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, presented by Elena L'Annunziata, Community Outreach Worker, B-SAFFE Project/San Diego Youth and Community Services
- The District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program/State Victim's of Crime Compensation Program (VOC) Overview, presented by Alissa Black, Paralegal/Victim Specialist

- Casey Family Programs and Early Results from Casey Alumni Study, presented by Marilyn Stewart and Becky Kennedy

- Building Partnerships to Keep Children Safe and Families Together, presented by Patric Ashby, Director, Child Welfare Services



- Why Keep Indian Children in Indian Culture? presented by Indian Health Council, Inc.
- Child Welfare County Self Assessment Update on Family to Family, presented by Yahairah Aristy, Child Welfare Services, Policy and Program Support Division
- Domestic Violence: A Family Problem, presented by Cindy Grossman, LCSW, Program Supervisor, San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (SANDAPP)
 - Spotlight: SDG&E Programs and Services for Low-Income and Medical Customers, presented by Rebecca Baez, SDG&E Outreach and Marketing
- Drug Endangered Children Project, presented by Bill Wood, Special Assistant, U.S. Attorney's Office and Lori Newhart, Child Welfare Services
 - Spotlight: Domestic Violence Response Teams, presented by Vivian Ash, Center for Community Solutions
- KPBS Domestic Violence Media and Outreach Campaign, presented by Megan Burke, Education & Outreach Coordinator and Cathy Lloyd, Outreach & Education Grant Manager
 - Spotlight: KPBS Ready to Learn Workshops for Children and Their Providers, presented by Cathy Lloyd, Outreach & Education Grant Manager



Workgroups:

CAPC Steering Committee: Facilitates CAPC meetings, plans the committee activities, and develops an annual action plan. The Steering Committee conducted a survey via email in August 2004 to determine how to fully engage committee members and increase involvement. After analyzing the results of the survey, the Steering Committee made changes to the day, time, and format of CAPC meetings. The new meeting format includes workgroup updates, information sharing and networking, and a featured speaker/training component. Since these changes were applied, there has been an increase in participation at the CAPC meetings, as well as at the Steering Committee and other CAPC workgroup meetings.

Cultural Competence: Diversity Schoolhouse is a monthly training series designed to help frontline workers within the social services and law enforcement fields improve their communication with and understanding of various ethnic, cultural, religious, and other diverse groups in our community.

This training is sponsored with the Union of Pan Asian Communities, San Diego CHOICE Program, and the County Diversity Advisory Council.

Diversity Schoolhouse trainings held throughout the year included:

- **Chaldean Community**, presented by Dr. Shak Hanish and Bernadette Talia (over 100 participants)
- **Recovery Community**, presented by Treatment Specialist Kimberly Mitchell and a panel from the Union of Pan Asian Communities' Alcohol and Drug Treatment Division (34 participants)
- **Laotian Community**, presented by SDPD Community Service Officer Sam Vorachack and Alonzo Silavong, the Union of Pan Asian Communities (50 participants)
- **Homeless Community**, presented by Public Defender Steve Binder, Homeless Court Program and a panel of Homeless Court participants (39 participants)
- **Sudanese Community**, presented by Elizabeth Hissen and Paulino Paidá (67 participants)
- **Female Gangs**, panel discussion (61 participants)
- **Native American Community**, panel discussion (47 participants)
- **Human Trafficking**, presented by Manolo Guillen, Program Manager, B-SAFFE Anti-Trafficking in Persons Project, San Diego Youth and Community Services (71 participants)
- **Cambodian Community**, presented by Kham Soch, San Diego Housing Commission and Sam Weisenburger, the Union of Pan Asian Communities (41 participants)
- **Survivors of Domestic Violence**, presented by Karen Albares; Zulma Digaudio, MFT; Jorge Rabago (52 participants)

Media and Public Awareness: Promotes public awareness of prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. To support community prevention efforts, materials and information brochures are distributed to schools and community groups throughout the year. In 2004, approximately 5,775 pieces of prevention and educational materials were distributed in English and Spanish. To promote Child Abuse Awareness month, the Committee had a booth at Children's Day in the Park on April 17, 2004. In addition, Child Abuse Awareness Blue Ribbons were distributed to County staff and community members.

Parent Education Task Force: Provides a forum for parent educators to network with one another, learn about new programs, and share curriculum and best practices. Community Services for Families contracts provide community-based support services for families at-risk or involved in the child welfare system. One important component of the contracts is parent education classes. Child Welfare Services staff requested guidance to ensure quality programs for the families. The Task Force developed an evaluation tool for evaluating parenting curriculum and program guidelines for the parent education component of the contracts.

The Task Force organized the 3rd Annual Parenting Conference, which was attended by 500 parents and caregivers on February 28, 2004. The keynote speaker was Gerald Newmark, Ph.D. whose topic was: "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children." Each attendee received a copy of his book in English or Spanish. The conference featured 31 workshops in Spanish and English including Step Parenting, Power Struggles and Toddlers, Balancing Love and Discipline, and A Day in the Life of a Teen.

System Enhancement: Works to improve services in communities by developing community capacity for a comprehensive network of opportunities and resources to support the needs of children and their families along the child welfare continuum.

Southern Counties Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils: The Commission is an active participant in this coalition sponsored by the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention. This group is an intercounty coalition to prevent child abuse by coordinating efforts, leveraging resources, and raising awareness. The group co-sponsored a one-day workshop with the Child Abuse Training and Technical Center called "Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention through Action Planning" on April 29, 2004. The technical advisors reviewed the Welfare and Institutions Code on Child Abuse Prevention Councils to ensure compliance with code mandates. At the afternoon session, San Diego committee members developed priorities for the year.

CAPC Steering Committee Members:

Sterling Alexander, Union of Pan Asian Communities (Chair)
 Vivian Ash, Center for Community Solutions
 Debbie Comstock, Little House Family Services
 Denise Golden, Papillon Kids
 Cindy Grossman, San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program
 Jo Ann Leone, South Bay Community Services
 Amanda Quayle, San Diego Domestic Violence Council
 Shelley Turner, Children's Hospital, Chadwick Center
 Cristofina Wilson, SAY San Diego

Child Welfare Services Redesign Steering Committee (CWSRSC)

Purpose: Facilitates and coordinates the development of a responsive child welfare system where public, private and community partners share responsibility to achieve and support the vision and mission of Redesign.

For the past year, the committee's work focused on examining strategies outlined in the Child Welfare Redesign Stakeholder Report and supporting implementation of the California Outcomes and Accountability System (AB636).

In 2003, San Diego volunteered to participate in the State Redesign as a "Cohort 3 County." San Diego County committed to apply a graduated implementation approach that builds on existing local activities with a focus on community partnerships, community capacity development, new intake structure, engaging families, and accountability for outcomes. As a Cohort 3 county, San Diego participated in the Breakthrough Series. The Breakthrough Series uses small-scale rapid tests to implement improvements using the steps Plan Do Study Act (PDSA). In 2004, the first Breakthrough Series pilot was a change in practice at the Child Abuse Hotline with three workers asking the reporting party strength-based questions. Results were very positive and this practice has been expanded to all hotline staff. A team of County Child Welfare staff and community representatives continues to meet to develop and implement pilots.

In January 2004, State and County officials implemented the California Child and Family Services Review (AB 636) to improve outcomes for children in the child welfare system. The new system holds the State and counties accountable for improving outcomes through the establishment of improvement goals, public reporting of outcomes and county specific system improvement plans. The CWSRSC provided input into the County Self Assessment, which analyzed the County's current performance and was completed in June. The CWSRSC recommended "fairness and equity" as a systemic issue to be examined and addressed in the County System Improvement Plan, which is based on the Self Assessment.

Partnership for Children, Families and Communities

As the work of the Committee progressed, it became clear that strengthening and supporting families would require the inclusion of all child and family serving systems, therefore broadening the child welfare focus. The Committee identified the need for a San Diego Partnership for Children, Families and Communities and has developed the following three priorities for guiding system change:

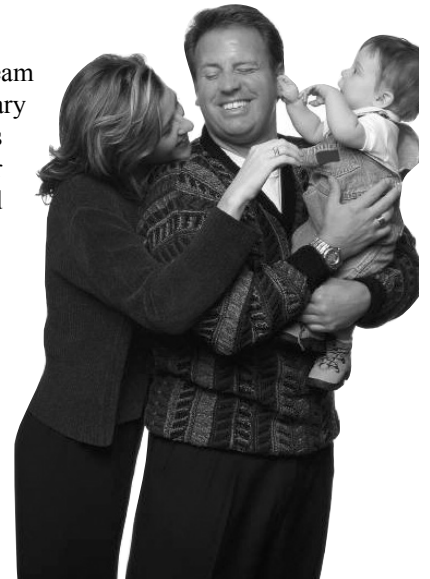
- 1) Improving outcomes
- 2) Transforming partnerships
- 3) Sharing responsibility

The effort evolved to partner with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Children's Mental Health System of Care Steering Committee, Domestic Violence Council, and Foster Youth Services Advisory Board to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and families. The message developed by the Committee was communicated through an event held on November 10, at the Mission Valley Hilton titled "The San Diego Partnership Forum for Children, Families and Communities." The goal of the Forum was to get beyond the rhetoric of integrating systems and begin the work to improve outcomes for children and families by transforming partnerships and sharing responsibility.

The Forum was attended by 198 participants representing a diverse cross-section of the community. Evaluation results from the Forum indicated the Partnership concepts were well received; in fact approximately 94% of participant evaluations gave the Forum a positive overall rating. Feedback from the evaluations and input collected during the group discussion at the Forum will be synthesized and used for community dialogues facilitated by community providers in early 2005.

After the forum, the CWSRSC convened and discussed the future of the Committee. The momentum for the sweeping changes recommended by Child Welfare Redesign encountered changing political circumstances with the change of administration in Sacramento. The current State focus is to utilize applicable recommendations from Redesign in child welfare improvement activities including the AB 636 System Improvement Plans. The group reached consensus to disband the current CWSRSC. The Committee's work on child welfare improvement activities will continue within the Child Abuse Prevention Committee.

Members of CWSRSC are serving as a transition team to develop and refine the Partnership concept. The Committee agreed the Commission would facilitate the Partnership because of its designation as the Interagency Children's Policy Council. This is compatible with the current focus developed by Commission members for 2004-2005. The transition team will convene in January 2005 to recruit liaisons from each council or coordinating body and begin the work.



Committee Members:

Walter Philips, San Diego Youth And Community Services (Co-Chair)

Patric Ashby, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (Former Co-chair, Retired)

Alfredo Aguirre, Health and Human Services Agency, Children's Mental Health Services

Lyn Angene, Juvenile Court

Kim Broderick, Probation Department

JoAnne Bushby, Representative, Supervisorial District Two

Miryam Choca, CA Strategies Casey Family Programs

Lori Clarke, Convergent Horizons

Donna Ewing Marto, Family & Youth Roundtable

Jennifer Fightlin, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Leslie Hine-Rabichow, San Diego Association of Nonprofits

Vincent Iaria, Probation Department

Nancy Kail, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Sharon Lawrence, Voices for Children

Nina Morgan, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Roseann Myers, Commission on Children, Youth and Families

Tom Packard, San Diego State University School of Social Work

Heidi Quiroz, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Brooke Smith, Children's Initiative

Heidi Staples, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Verna Griffin-Tabor, Center for Community Solutions

Oscar Talaro, Health and Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services

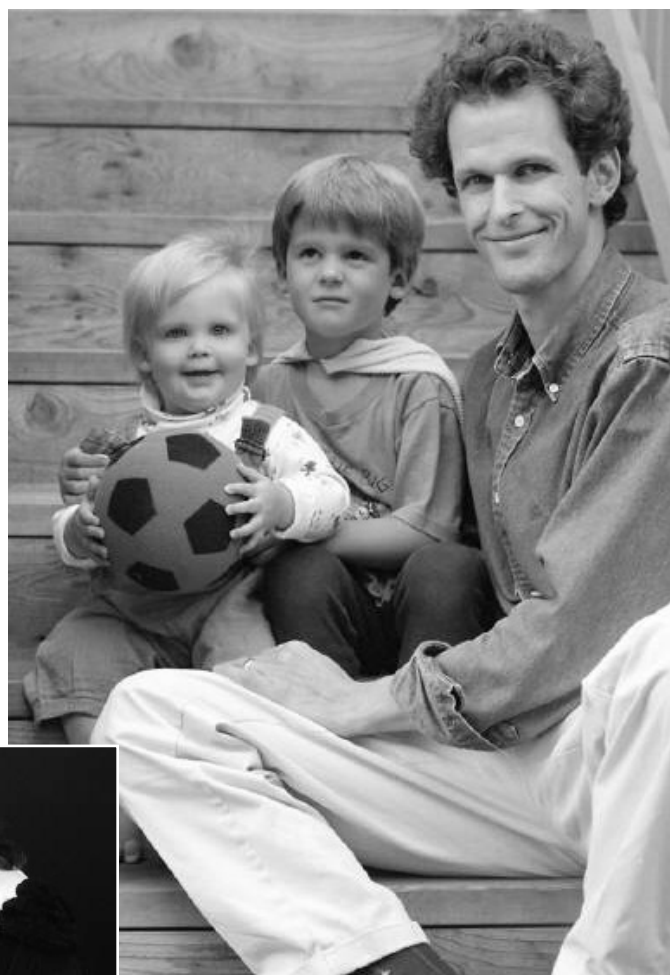
Yolanda Valdez, Health and Human Services Agency, Community Action Partnership

Daphne Watson, Mental Health Systems, Inc.

Michael Weinrick, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Charles Wilson, Chadwick Center for Children at Children's Hospital San Diego

Debra Zanders-Willis, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services



Education Committee

Purpose: To provide oversight, support and coordination of programs and policies that lead to improved educational outcomes for youth within the dependency and delinquency systems.

During 2004, the Committee merged the following groups: Commission Wrap Around Health Committee, Education Committee of the Juvenile Court Dependency Policy Group and County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Advisory Committee (FYSAC). The Committee strives to raise awareness of the education needs of foster and probation youth, improve interagency communication and increase knowledge of legal responsibilities. The Committee works collaboratively and seamlessly with the FYSAC, which provides oversight and guidance to the County Office of Education Foster Youth Services.

The Foster Youth Information System (FYIS) expanded this year to a secured Web-based system for health and education records for children and youth in the dependency and delinquency system. The overall goal of the FYIS is to improve the accuracy, accessibility, and timeliness of health and education records to insure the appropriate educational placement in the least restrictive environment. The database is now available to social workers, probation officers, public health nurses, and school personnel. Multiple trainings by Foster Youth Services were conducted throughout the year to train users and assign accounts.

The Countywide Interagency Agreement with Foster Youth Services required renewal and updating this year. Focus groups were held in the Fall to develop strategies to ensure accountability and cooperation between Child Welfare Services, school districts, group home and foster family agency staff, and Probation. The information obtained from these groups will be used to update the Agreement with Foster Youth Services to facilitate the prompt transfer of records and appropriate educational placement.

College Connection is a task force of post-secondary educators, Foster Youth Services staff, County Independent Living social workers, Independent Living Skill contractors and others working to support the transition of foster youth. The goal of College Connection is to empower foster youth to access post-secondary education. Events are sponsored throughout the year at local colleges to introduce students to classes, campus life and to explain special financial assistance available to foster youth. Over 250 foster youth attended College Connection events this year at Cuyamaca College, Palomar College, Mira Costa College, and California State University at San Marcos. The colleges are committed to supporting former foster youth after enrollment through the California Student Opportunity and Access Program.



The Committee coordinated "Foster Youth Education: It's OUR Responsibility," a four-part training series designed for people working with foster children. This Education Series, co-sponsored with Grossmont College Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Care Education Program, was held in the Spring and Fall with approximately 150 attendees. The training highlights the following areas:

- **Session 1:** "Navigating the Education System"
This session focused on the unique school issues of youth in the foster care system in addition to legal roles and responsibilities of schools and other agencies.
- **Session 2:** "Meeting the Needs of All Students - Special Education Eligibility" The purpose of this session was to increase awareness of the roles and responsibilities of general education, special education, and other agencies and to explain the options for meeting the individual needs of students in foster care.
- **Session 3:** "The Individualized Education Program: Provision of Special Education and Related Services" In this session, key special education concepts and procedures were explained.
- **Session 4:** "Addressing Challenged Students' Needs" The final session included an overview of Mental Health Services/AB2726 and discipline in the educational setting. The series ended with a panel discussion with education experts from various types of programs where foster youth are enrolled.

Committee Members:

Hon. Susan Huguenor, Juvenile Court (Co-Chair)

Barbara Ryan, County School Boards Association (Co-Chair)

Lyn Angene, Juvenile Court

Patti Bennet-DeGuzman, Triple L Group Home

Sandra Boelter, Grossmont College Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Care Education

Tammy Burmeister, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Deirdre Calhoun, Devereux California

Pablo Carrillo, Probation Department

Cindy Charron, Voices for Children

Margaret Dalton, USD Legal Clinic

Patty Danon, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Ana España, Office of the Public Defender

Gerald Fare, New Alternatives

Barry Fox, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Tracy Fried, San Diego County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services

Timothy Glover, Sweetwater Union High School District

Erin Han, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Eileen Highley, Ramona Unified School District

Margarita Holguin, Health and Human Services Agency, South Region Administration

Pam Hosmer, San Diego City Schools

Claudette Inge, San Diego County Office of Education

Roxie Jackson, San Diego City Schools

Nancy Kail, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Sara Montrose, Voices for Children

Sean Morrill, Juvenile Court and Community Schools

Dale Parent, Chula Vista Elementary School District

Jose Preciado, San Diego State University

Judith Quinn, Health and Human Services Agency, Maternal, Child and Family Services

Kristen Richetti, Juvenile Court and Community Schools

Galen Rowe, Children's Treatment Center

Gina Serna, Oceanside Unified School District

Marilyn Stewart, Casey Family Programs

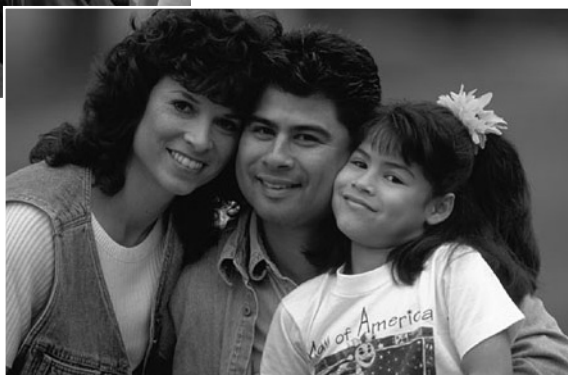
Susan Strom, County Counsel

Leona Sublett, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation

Judith Van Brocklin, San Diego County Office of Education

Sylvia Volz, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Bruce Wexler, Walden Family Services Foster Family Association



Housing Committee

Purpose: To focus on the development of policies and programs to assure the housing needs of children and families are met and receive sustainable support.

The HOME Emancipated Foster Youth Housing Program:

The Committee focused much of its efforts during the first half of the year on the HOME Program. The HOME Program is a transitional housing program operated as a collaborative effort of the County Health and Human Services Agency Independent Living Skills Program (ILS) and the County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This program provides rental subsidy assistance and case management to former foster youth between 18 and 21 years of age. The goals of the program are to provide stability while the former foster youth obtain employment and education, work towards self-sufficiency and establish rental histories. Program participants may rent apartments located throughout San Diego County.

In April, the Board of Supervisors approved additional funding for the program that allowed 32 more youth to be housed. The program capacity is now 84, compared to 52 available slots at the beginning of the year. Currently, there are 50 youth housed in this program. ILS and HCD are working to bring the program to its newly enhanced capacity. Based on the experience of the past three years, the program design was modified for the youth entering the program in July 2004. One significant change was to allow the youth to have roommates. The committee commends HCD and Dolores Diaz for the outstanding work that went into making roommate options possible. Roommates will lower program costs and help the youth sustain their housing when the program ends.

The Committee reviewed and provided feedback in the development of the HOME Program Guide. The Committee commended County of San Diego staff from Housing and Community Development and Child Welfare Services Independent Living Skills Program for their hard work in enhancing program design surrounding eligibility, and policies and procedures as these foundational elements will aid staff in serving the youth.



Committee Recommendations:

- Support ongoing funding for the HOME Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development Annual Plan.
- Support HHSA to continue development of more definitive Case Management Standards and service to ensure housing is not a temporary band-aid, rather, an opportunity to further develop life skills and economic self-sufficiency.
- Support HHSA to continue collecting data and evaluating outcomes for transitioning and emancipating youth in conjunction with current efforts in Child Welfare Services on outcome measurement. To measure the effectiveness of the housing programs for transitioning youth, evaluation tools need to be developed and implemented.

Youth Employment Preparation Program:

The Youth Employment Preparation Program is a collaboration of Housing and Community Development, Casey Family Programs and ACCESS Inc. This program serves youth in the HOME Program giving them a six-month paid employment training opportunity with County Departments within the Community Services Group. It includes job coaching, transportation vouchers, savings match, and driver's education/training incentives. Currently, 8 youth are enrolled in the program and have been placed with the Registrar of Voters, Animal Services, Libraries, General Services, Housing and Community Development, and Purchasing and Contracting.

Strategic Planning:

The Committee began developing a two-year work plan in September 2004. The group identified potential strategies for achieving each of the following goals:

- Foster the development of expanded housing opportunities across the continuum for homeless and emancipating foster youth
- Prevent homelessness among emancipating youth
- Expand outreach efforts and engagement of homeless youth
- Enhance the ability of homeless services programs to effectively serve homeless youth

The Committee began to prioritize the strategies identified and will begin to implement the highest priority strategies.

Committee Members:

Lyn Angene, Juvenile Court

Stephanie Beazley, YMCA Transitional Living Program

Patty Danon, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

Jeanette Day, Representative, Supervisorial District Three

Dolores Diaz, Department of Housing and Community Development

Matthew Doherty, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Geri Garcia, South Bay Community Services

Secorra Getty, Probation Department

Debra Fitzgerald, Representative, Supervisorial District Four

Phil Harris, Friends & Family Community Connection

Karen Kerschmann, Health and Human Services Agency, Independent Living Skills Program

Lois Kenneally, Casey Family Programs

Patrick Loose, The Center, San Diego County

Elizabeth McPhail, private citizen

Riley McRae, Representative, North Central Region Collaborative

Jose Montes, South Bay Community Services

Donna Rodriguez, Health and Human Services Agency, Regional Program Support

Anzette Shackelford, Health and Human Services Agency, Independent Living Skills Program

Cyndy Speck, Probation Department

Ken Tyner, YMCA Transitional Living Program



Budget Task Force

Purpose: Develop a framework to facilitate budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for funding allocations for children, youth and families.

Background

In January 2004, the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) convened advisory board chairs to provide an overview of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. HHSA requested the advisory boards prioritize 50 child welfare programs. In response to this request, the Commission held a special meeting on January 20, 2004. The Commission established the Budget Task Force to research these programs and funding, and complete the prioritization as requested by HHSA. The Task Force prioritized the programs, presented their recommendations to the Commission for approval, and prepared the Commission Advisory Board Statement. When this charge was completed, the Task Force continued meeting to explore how to effectively monitor the impacts of budget reductions on the child serving system in the future. The Task Force adopted the new purpose, to develop a framework to facilitate budget recommendations regarding child-serving programs.

Project Framework

The Budget Task Force has a set of indicators under development to gauge the additive effects of budget decisions across systems. The group has begun to evaluate tools and measures utilized by Probation, Child Welfare Services, and Mental Health Services. Consensus was reached to adopt the template developed by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to assist in making budget decisions.



Committee Members:

JoAnne Bushby, Representative, Supervisorial District Two (Chair)

Lyn Angene, Juvenile Court

Kim Broderick, Probation Department

Debra Fitzgerald, Representative, Supervisorial District Four

Rosa Ana Lozada-Garcia, Health and Human Services Agency, Children's Mental Health Services

Leslie Hine-Rabichow, San Diego Association of Nonprofits

Sylvia Selverston, San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council

Katherine Smith-Brooks, Representative, Supervisorial District Five

Ron Zappelli, Representative, Supervisorial District One

Legislative Responsibilities

Promoting Safe and Stable Families; Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; and Community Based Family Resource Center Funding

Since 1994, the Commission has been the Board designated advisory body responsible for planning the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program formerly called Family Preservation and Support Program. The Commission also has oversight and planning responsibilities for three other funding sources: Children's Trust Fund; Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; and Community Based Family Resource Center. In 2003, the Commission developed a Comprehensive Plan for Child Welfare Services outlining a vision for a continuum of services utilizing these funding sources.

Child Welfare Services used this framework to develop a statement of work for new contracts utilizing Promoting Safe and Stable Families; Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment; Children's Trust Fund; and Community Based Family Resource Center Funding. The Commission recommended approval of the board letter for "Solicitation for Community Services for Families Request for Proposals" on January 16, 2004. The primary focus of the Community Services for Families services will be a continuum of child welfare support services to assist at-risk families in providing safe and stable homes for their children. The new contracts were effective September 1, 2004. The Commission will monitor the contract outcomes and recommend contract changes if indicated. In September 2004, the Commission staff completed the annual Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Plan Report and submitted it to the State.

Interagency Children's Services (SB 997)

For purposes of compliance with the Welfare and Institutions Code, Chapter 12.8, Section 18986, the Commission is designated as the SB 997 Interagency Children and Youth Services Council. This legislation charges the Commission to support development of a comprehensive delivery system for local services provided to children and youth. This responsibility is the cornerstone of the Commission's mission and ongoing committee work. The proposed Partnership Committee will provide a new platform for the Commission to fulfill this mandate as well as operationalize the current focus to "strive to integrate the child serving system by building strong partnerships with shared accountability to improve outcomes for children and youth."

Healthy Start legislation (SB 620) requires the local SB 997 Council to review Healthy Start grant applications from all San Diego County school districts. The Commission provides staff support to San Diego's Healthy Start Consortium, which meets on a quarterly basis. Meeting topics in 2004 included: the Formation of a State Family Support Association, Obesity Problems in Children, Healthy Start links to Community Services for Families, and Sustainability and a Health Framework. In addition, the group spent part of each meeting working on a Strategic Plan. The group adopted the following mission statement: "Advance the field of family support to fos-

ter strong healthy families and communities to ensure sustainable, quality services and programs through advocacy, technical assistance, public awareness, leveraging resources and networking." San Diego has approximately 40 Healthy Start programs, which serve over 100 schools providing school-linked health and social services.

Youth Pilot Project

For purposes of application and participation in the SB 1352 Youth Pilot Program formerly known as AB 1741 under Section 18987 of the Welfare and Institutions Code the Commission on Children, Youth, and Families is designated as the responsible body for planning, implementing and evaluating the blended funding pilot program. The Commission plans, implements and monitors this Initiative as the designated Child and Family Interagency Coordinating Council. In 2004, AB 2026 extended the youth pilot project until July 1, 2009. To date the State has not issued guidelines for waiver applications authorized by the legislation. The extension will provide the County with a potential avenue for innovations to better serve children and families.

Interagency and Community Partnerships

To improve outcomes for children and their families and support integration of services, the Commission is represented on the following groups:

- Children's System of Care Steering Committee
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- San Diego Workforce Partnership Youth Council
 - Executive Committee
 - Regional Linkages Committee
- County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Advisory Committee
- Evaluation Leadership Team (First 5 Commission)
- Civic Engagement Leadership Team (First 5 Commission)
- KPBS Advisory Board (First 5 Commission)
- San Diego City Schools Medi-Cal Collaborative
- Developmental Screening and Evaluation Advisory Board
- Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force
- Intergenerational Workgroup

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